



# Veterans Initiative in the Arts

## 2014-2015 Grant Guidelines

*Deadline: April 3, 2015, 11:59PM (Online Submission)*



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# **VETERANS INITIATIVE IN THE ARTS**

## **2014-2015 GRANT GUIDELINES**

**DEADLINE: April 3, 2015, 11:59PM**



### **Background**

The Veterans Initiative in the Arts (VIA) program is rooted in the California Arts Council's (CAC) desire to address the needs and improve the lives of California's veterans, active military, and their families through quality arts programming.

In this pilot year of the program, VIA will serve as an extension of the State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP), a signature CAC grant program fostering community development through the arts at the county level.

### **Purpose**

The VIA is a competitive grant program that provides project and partnership support for State-Local Partners (SLPs) to reach veterans, active military, and their families. VIA offers equity, access, and opportunities to enrich the lives of veterans through arts programming that is sensitive and responsive to their unique experiences.

Project should address one or more of the following goals:

- Increase partnerships with local veteran's assistance agencies.
- Encourage and support arts learning by, and/or the artistic expression of, veterans.
- Contribute to public understanding of and appreciation for the diverse range of veterans' experiences.
- Provide greater access to the arts for veterans, active military, and their families by reducing barriers to arts participation.
- Explore innovative strategies for new or increased participation.
- Implement artist residencies in places and in a manner which effectively engages veterans in the process of artistic creation.

### **Eligible Request Amount**

The Council has allocated \$150,000 to the VIA program. Requests for support may be made for up to \$10,000.

### **Applicant Eligibility**

The VIA program is only available to current 2014-15 State-Local Partners; local arts agencies designated by its county board of supervisors to serve the county's citizens in partnership with the CAC.

- Applicants to this program are not restricted from applying to and receiving funding from other competitive CAC grant programs as long as those funds support distinctly different projects or activities.

### **Project Requirements**

- Project must engage veterans, active military, and/or their families through quality arts programming. For the purposes of this program, “veteran” is defined as any person who has served in the active United States military.
- Project must be designed and developed in partnership between the SLP and at least one veteran’s assistance agency. Partnering veteran’s assistance agencies must be a unit of government or a California-based nonprofit organization with a primary mission of providing assistance to veterans and/or their families, and may include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Veterans Service Organizations, Vet Centers, veteran’s housing and medical facilities, and homeless and disabled veterans support agencies. If unclear about appropriate partners, contact the VIA Program Specialist (see Staff Assistance).
- Partners must have defined project and decision-making responsibilities, and must include a letter of intent describing its role and intended contributions.
- A public component must be included. Examples may be a culminating presentation, a performance, special event, exhibition, publication, report, etc.
- Project activities must demonstrate high artistic quality and address one or more program goals.
- Program must be free of charge for participants.

### **Application Cycle**

- Deadline: April 3, 2015, 11:59PM (Online Submission)
- Grant Dates: June 2015 (subject to Council approval) – May 31, 2016

### **Review Criteria**

A peer review panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- *Quality of project plan:* Clarity of plan, per identified goal; strength and commitment of proposed partnership(s); and effective communication-strategies to develop participation and promote the project’s value.
- *Impact:* Project’s relevance and benefit to veterans, active military, and their families; degree to which it addresses their needs and adds value to their lives; degree to which it promotes equity, access, and opportunity to engage in or experience arts and culture.
- *Artistic merit:* Samples of artistic work and support materials, artistic personnel, and arts programming schedule of activities.
- *Ability to complete proposed project:* Ability of partnering organizations to implement proposed project. Qualifications of project’s team; viability of project budget, evidence of community support, and overall fiscal health of applicant and partnering organization(s).

- *Documentation and communication plan:* Ability to demonstrate the impact and benefits of the project, including both qualitative (storytelling) and quantitative results.

### **Peer Panel Evaluation and Ranking Process**

A peer panel will review all applications and work samples in a multi-step process that involves assigning numerical ranks to an application. A 10-point ranking system will be implemented. Panelists' ranks are averaged to obtain the final score.

### **10-Point Numerical Ranking System**

<b>10</b>	<b>Model</b>	Meets all of the review criteria to the highest degree possible.
<b>8-9</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Designates an applicant as a high priority for funding.
<b>5-6-7</b>	<b>Good</b>	Strongly meets the review criteria; however, some improvement or development is needed.
<b>2-3-4</b>	<b>Developing</b>	Has some merit, but does not meet the criteria in a strong or solid way.
<b>1</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	Inappropriate for CAC support.

### **California Arts Council Decision-making**

The final authority for grant decisions is the appointed Council. Subsequent to receiving and reviewing the peer panel's recommendations, the Council will take into consideration the panel's recommendations and make final funding decisions at a public meeting.

### **Grant Amounts**

Requests may be made for up to \$10,000. VIA grant requests cannot exceed an organization's total income based on its last completed budget.

If approved by the Council for support, grant amounts may differ from the request amount due to the level of funding available to the program, demand for that funding, and/or the rank a proposal receives from the peer review panel.

Should a grant award be made for an amount less than the request amount, the applicant will be required to confirm that the goals of the original request can be met or modified with a lesser grant award.

### **Matching Funds**

Matching funds are not required for this grant.

### **What the CAC Does Not Fund**

- Former grantee organizations not in compliance with CAC grant requirements (as stipulated in grant agreement)

- Non-arts organizations not involved in arts activities (as applicants)
- For-profit organizations (as applicants)
- Projects with fundraising purposes, including grant writing
- Other state or federal agencies
- Programs not accessible to the public
- Projects with religious or sectarian purposes
- Organizations or activities that are part of the curricula base of schools, colleges, or universities
- Indirect costs of schools, colleges, or universities
- Trust or endowment funds
- Purchase of equipment, land, buildings, or construction (capital outlay or expenditures)
- Out-of-state travel activities
- Hospitality or food costs
- Expenses incurred before the starting or after the ending date of the grant

### **Timeline**

February 27, 2015	Application available
<b>April 3, 2015, 11:59PM</b>	<b>Application deadline (online)</b>
Late June	Funding decisions
Late June	Funding notifications
Late June 2015 – May 31, 2016	Funded activity period

### **Grantee Requirements**

- To better inform our elected representatives as to the value of the arts and the use of state funds, you will be expected to include--with your approved grant--copies of signed letters sent to the Governor and your State Senate and Assembly representatives thanking them for your VIA grant.
- Use CAC logos on all printed, electronic materials, and websites (programs, catalogs, postcards, posters, newsletters, leaflets, publications, etc.) that specifically reference this grant.
- Credit the CAC on all printed and electronic materials: *"This activity is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency."*
- When discussing programs supported by this grant, verbal credit must be given.
- A Final Report summarizing VIA grant accomplishments will be required at the end of the grant period.

### **Staff Assistance**

CAC staff is available on a limited basis to offer guidance and clarification in preparing your proposal. We recommend that you contact staff well in advance of the deadline to ensure you can be accommodated. **Contact Jason Jong, VIA Arts Program Specialist at [jason.jong@arts.ca.gov](mailto:jason.jong@arts.ca.gov) or (916) 322-6338.**